

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/699,787

Examiner

Tuan C To

Applicant(s)

INOUE, KOICHI

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3663

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 08/12/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 04 November 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

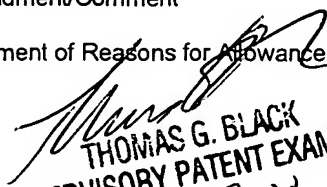
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


THOMAS G. BLACK
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
GROUP 7800

EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

This communication is an Examiner's reasons for allowance in response to application filed on 11/04/2003, assigned serial 10/699,787 and titled "Navigation System."

The following is the Examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The applicant's amendment and arguments filed on 08/12/2004 have been fully considered. After carefully reconsidering the application and the applied prior art, the examiner has realized the application is patentably distinct from the prior art. The prior art are not deemed strong to make the application unpatentable.

A prior art search has been updated. The examiner has expanded the search in some classification subject matter that are relevant to the features as claimed in the present invention, but none of the references has been found fairly suggests "a navigation system comprising: map information acquiring device for acquiring map information arranged in a hierarchical structure and classified depending on coverage of a road map the hierarchy structure including levels of a low, medium, and high density road information, detouring searching device for searching a route that detours the bypass region only when the by pass region input by the input device is included within the coverage of the map information belonging to the level of hierarchy acquired by the map information acquiring device", "a navigation system comprising: a map information device that acquires

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map data based on the origin of a user and a selected destination, in one of a low, medium or high density level of road information and determines a route, a display device that displays the road information in either said low, medium or high density depending on the current location of the user within the route a bypass input device by which the user specifies a region within the route to bypass, and a detour searching device that searches a bypass route that detours the bypass region, the detour searching device performing the search when the user reaches an area within the route in which the acquired map data provides the specified bypass region, wherein the bypass route is displayed on the display device providing the user with the option to select the bypass route".

For that reason, the application is now set in a condition for allowance.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuan C To whose telephone number is (703) 308-6273. The examiner can normally be reached on from 8:00AM to 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Black can be reached on (703) 305-8233.


The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/tc

November 12, 2004


THOMAS G. BLACK
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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